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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 OPIC-03 TRSE-00 PM-05
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PINT, EINV, AS
SUBJECT: OBSERVATION ON D.A. DUNSTAN, M.P., Q.C., PERMIER,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BEGIN SUMMARY. MR. DUNSTAN IS THE ONLY AUSTRALIAN OFFICIAL WHOM I'VE MET WHO IS OPENLY ANTI-AMERICAN. I THINK HOSTILE WOULD NOT BE AN OVERSTATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MY OFFICIAL VISIT TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA THERE WERE TWO OCCASIONS WHEN I WAS WITH THE PREMIER, MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE BEING A LUNCHEON WHICH HE HOSTED AND AT WHICH I SAT NEXT TO HIM. THE TWO OF US CONVERSED FOR MOST OF THAT TIME. THE SECOND OCCASION WAS AT A DINNER HOSTED BY CONSUL GENERAL BRAND WHEN I SAT NEXT TO ADELE KOH (MRS. DUNSTAN). THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY THAT EVENING FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE PREMIER. I FOUND HIS WIFE INTERESTING. SHE'S A PERSON OF STRONG OPINION, IN NO SENSE RESERVED ABOUT THOSE OPINIONS, AND I WOULD GUESS ONE WHO HAD SOME INFLUENCE ON HER HUSBAND.

2. AT LUNCH, I FOUND THE PREMIER TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE, ARTICULATE AND IN NO SENSE "RUN OF THE MILL." HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN BORN IN THE LIBERAL PARTY TRADITION BUT MOVED AT AN EARLY AGE, MAYBE 19 YEARS, TO THE LABOR
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PARTY. AS A YOUNG LAWYER HE RECOUNTS HAVING HAD TO STRUGGLE FOR A LIVING, AND REMEMBERED THAT HE RELIED HEAVILY ON WORKING FOR A BANK WHICH WAS NOT ONLY HIS CLIENT IN SOME MATTERS, BUT ALSO HIS LANDLORD. HE RECALLS VIVIDLY THE BANK WORK WAS DENIED HIM WHEN HE TOOK A PUBLIC POSITION CONTRARY TO THAT HELD BY THE BANK (I BELIEVE HOUSING TO HAVE BEEN THE ISSUE IN THAT INSTANCE).

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MR. DUNSTAN HARBORS THAT MEMORY, AND I THINK IT IS SAFE TO SAY HE IS HOSTILE "TO THE ESTABLISHMENT", HOWEVER THAT GROUP IS DEFINED. THAT'S NOT TO SAY HE IS HOSTILE TO THE STYLE OF LIFE GENERALLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE GROUP. EVERY REMARK OF HIS WAS IN THAT TENOR. HIS OPENING GAMBIT WHEN I ASKED HIM TO TELL ME A LITTLE OF HIS COUNTRY WAS "WE DON'T WANT TO GO THE WAY OF CANADA", WHICH I CONSTRUE TO MEAN AMERICAN CONTROL OF CANADIAN BUSINESS. WHILE HE DID NOT SAY SO, I THINK HIS STATEMENT WAS MADE BECAUSE OF A COMMENT ATTRIBUTED TO ME ON THE AUSTRALIAN RADIO RELATING TO THE INVESTMENT HERE OF UNITED STATES CAPITAL.

3. MR. DUNSTAN RECOUNTED AN EXPERIENCE WITH MOBIL WHERE HE CLAIMED TO HAVE HAD A VICTORY IN THAT MOBIL OPENED A REFINERY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA DESPITE HIS, DUNSTAN'S, REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH MOBIL'S DEMANDS. HE REMEMBERED HAVING TOLD MOBIL THAT HE WOULD NOT SELL OUT SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR A HUNDRED JOBS.

4. MR. DUNSTAN VOLUNTEERED THAT THE UNITED STATES PRESENCE IN ALICE SPRINGS AND THE NORTH WEST CAPE SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. HE WAS VERY FIRM. IT IS MY RECOLLECTION THAT HE ALSO INCLUDED THE LABOR PARTY'S POSI-
TION ON THESE SUBJECTS. I DID NOT INITIATE OR CONTINUE THIS TRAIN OF THOUGHT.
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TM MR. DUNSTAN THOUGHT THE RELATIONSHIP AS EVIDENCED BY THE ANZUS TREATY WAS ALL RIGHT FROM AN AUSTRALIAN POINT OF VIEW, BUT MADE IT CLEAR IN RESPONDING TO MY COMMENT ON ANZUS THAT AUSTRALIA WAS NOT TO BECOME DEPENDENT ON AMERICA BECAUSE OF THE ANZUS RELATIONSHIP.

6. IF ONE IS PREPARED TO PREDICT THAT DUNSTAN AND HIS PARTY WILL REMAIN IN POWER IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, THERE WOULD BE NO REASON FOR AMERICAN CAPITAL TO GO THERE LOOKING FOR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. FURTHER, IF ONE IS PREPARED TO PREDICT THAT DUNSTAN'S ROLE WITH THE LABOR PARTY IS SECURE AND THAT THE LABOR PARTY HAS A FUTURE IN AUSTRALIAN POLITICS AND FURTHER IF IT CAN BE SAID THAT DUNSTAN REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL ELEMENT IN THE LABOR PARTY, I THINK THIS WOULD SAY THAT AMERICAN BUSINESS IS IN FOR SOME ROUGH TIMES. I WOULD HOPE THAT THE LIKES OF JOHN DUCKER, NOT DON DUNSTAN, REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE MAJORITY OF LABOR PARTY LEADERS. I SHOULD ADD TO THE DUCKER SIDE OF THE LEDGER THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, G.J. JAMIESON, WITH WHOM I WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED AND WHO I THOUGHT REFLECTED MODERATE

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VIEWS ON LABOR-MANAGEMENT MATTERS AND WHO EXPRESSED A
FRIENDSHIP FOR THE U.S.A. ALSTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Subject: OBSERVATION ON D.A. DUNSTAN, M.P., Q.C., PERMIER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA BEGIN SUMMARY. MR. DUNSTAN IS THE ONLY AUSTRALIAN
TAGS: PINR, PINT, EINV, AS, (DUNSTAN, D A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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